

SAFETY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5056



AFZF-GA-SAFE

25 September 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Maintenance Safety – Safety Alert 01-02

1. A Fort Hood soldier received an eye injury yesterday while performing vehicle maintenance. The mechanic was lying under a vehicle, hammering on a metal shaft without wearing eye protection. While hammering on the shaft, a shard of metal separated from the shaft, lodging itself in the soldier's unprotected eye. The injury required the soldier's evacuation to a medical center for surgery to remove the shard from the injured eye.
2. Properly performed maintenance is extremely critical to our combat preparation efforts. Mechanics and other support soldiers are valuable assets that require specific protective gear for certain duties. Operational hazards dictate what type of protective gear is required. Leaders must conduct risk assessments to identify the potential operational hazards and the controls required to mitigate the hazards (i.e., protective gear).
3. Leaders should refer to FM 9-43-1, Maintenance Operations And Procedures (chapter 8), and Fort Hood Regulation 750-2, Maintenance Policies And Procedures (chapter 25), for maintenance safety guidance. These two chapters are excellent safety resources for personnel briefings, Sergeants' Time, OPD/NCOPD and safety stand downs.
4. Accidents can drain resources and negatively impact on readiness. We cannot afford that! Commanders and leaders can prevent this by ruthlessly enforcing safety measures and standards. Most accidents are preventable with strict adherence to established standards.

Ensure this Safety Alert receives widest dissemination and is posted on unit bulletin boards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. B. Bell'.

B. B. BELL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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